UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/401
31 May 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 30 MAY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 28 May 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter and its annex, the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with attached letters of protest sent to Turkey since the beginning of March 1996, to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Identical letters dated 28 May 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Sir,

I should like to inform you that the ground and air raids on the Republic of Iraq carried out by the Turkish armed forces are still continuing and have indeed escalated since the beginning of March 1996. They threaten Iraqi sovereignty and the integrity of Iraqi territory and airspace on the pretext of expelling elements that threaten the national security of Turkey. They exploit the abnormal situation in the north of Iraq created by, in particular, the United States of America, in violation not only of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, but also of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

On 6 May 1996, the Turkish armed forces carried out a fresh raid on the territory of the Republic of Iraq, penetrating 3 to 10 kilometres into Iraqi territory in more than one region. Both warplanes and long-range artillery continue to bombard towns and cities in the north of Iraq. This bombardment was still continuing at the time of writing, and Turkish officials have declared their intention to continue these practices. To give just one example, the official spokesman for the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on 9 May 1996 that Turkey is concerned for its security as a result of the terrorist acts of the Turkish Workers' Party (PKK); that it had the right to enter the north of Iraq to counter that terrorism, and that it would continue to make such forays into the northern part of Iraq until the terrorists were extirpated. I enclose herewith a list of the violations committed by the Turkish armed forces during the period referred to at the beginning of my letter.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq categorically rejects the Turkish allegations and condemns this incursion, which constitutes a flagrant and grave violation of the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq. The Security Council is requested to take measures to halt the Turkish incursion, ensure it is not repeated and issue a condemnation of it in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and the rules of international law.

Notwithstanding the excuses it has made, the Turkish Government, which has deployed its forces in order to invade Iraqi territory, bears full responsibility for these hostile acts and their consequences, particularly since Iraq, contrary to the allegations of the Turkish Government, is in no way responsible for this situation. The true reason for it is the United States policy of interference in the affairs of the region and the deployment of United States and British forces on Turkish territory in Operation Poised Hammer, in order to intervene militarily in northern Iraq and prevent the latter from exercising its national sovereignty there. This has damaged the security and stability of the region. Had Iraq been able to exercise its authority in the

northern part of the country, armed terrorist groups would not have been able to establish themselves in northern Iraq and southern Turkey.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated to members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Letters of protest sent to Turkey regarding Turkish violations since the beginning of March 1996

	No. of letter of protest	Date of letter	Area and type of incursion	Date
1	23/2/6/126056	7 March 1996	Territorial violation in the Bi'r Jilah region, advancing 22 km into the regions of Hawarah, Meize and Qadiriyah	28 February 1996
2	23/2/6/126067	23 March 1996	Four aerial sorties by warplanes over the area of Sarsank-Amadiyah; bombardment of areas 10 km inside Iraqi territory (Shayqi, Hakruk and Kariadni); incursion of ground forces to a depth of 5 km	15 March 1996
3	23/2/6/126081	30 March 1996	Advance by military force (two commando companies) backed by four armoured transporters into the Bi'r Bala - Matin, Birwari al-Ulya and Birwari al-Sufla regions. Bombardment by warplanes of a number of Iraqi villages (Kani Masi, Sindi, Batufah and Dayra Luk) A military brigade searched villages in the above regions.	4 March 1996
4	23/2/6/126092	20 April 1996	Turkish mountain commando officers carried out reconnaissance in the regions of Birwari al-Ulya and Birwari al-Sufla to a depth of 12 km inside Iraqi territory. A number of Turkish tanks entered the village of Sarzeri, 1 km inside; aircraft and artillery bombarded the villages of Kara, Balukah, Kani Banka-i, Mal Ukhtu, Halawah, Tarwanish, Barwari and Bala, north of Amadiyah, to a depth of 3 to 10 km inside Iraqi territory	11 April 1996
5	23/2/6/126106	7 May 1996	Warplanes bombarded the villages of Tarwanish, Bayt Nurah, Halawah and Bayk Daudah in Dohuk Governorate; artillery bombardment; destruction of the mosque in Tarwanish village, an elementary school and a number of residential buildings.	4 May 1996

	No. of letter of protest	Date of letter	Area and type of incursion	Date
6	23/2/6/126109	12 May 1996	Turkish military forces supported by the Turkish air arm advanced 5 to 6 km in the area opposite the Turkish town of Shamandili.	6 May 1996
7	23/2/6/126114	14 May 1996	On 3 April 1996 the villages of Kista and Zanawi were bombarded. Over the extended period from 9 to 16 April 1996, Turkish artillery bombarded the villages of Balukah, Mihataw, Hanwa, Satum Bazi, Tarwanish and Jijah, resulting in the injury of a number of citizens and some material damage. Turkish aircraft bombarded the regions of Jabal Rash and Wadi Shidi. On 12 April 1996, artillery bombarded the villages of Bayk Daudah, Tarwanish, Balukah, Malfatah, Halawah, Afkari and Thari, forcing the inhabitants of the villages to flee. On 20 April 1996 Turkish helicopters bombarded the areas of Tarwanish, Halawah, Rudi, Barwari, Bala, Malawi and Dayrah, in the north of Amadiyah Governorate. On 26 April 1996 a military regiment of infantry entered the region of Sharanish, passing through the Iraqi Bawwabat Ibrahim Al-Khalil. On 6 May 1996 a brigade advanced 3 to 7 km inside Iraqi territory, supported by artillery and aerial bombardment.	The period from 3 April to 16 May 1996